What Can You Do?

1. Learn to recognize noxious weed species.
2. Report noxious weed sightings in remote areas to the nearest Ministry of Forests office.
3. When travelling in rangelands, stay on established roads. Do not drive across grasslands.
4. Check your vehicle and remove attached weeds before leaving a weed infested area .
5. Avoid soil disturbance whenever possible.
6. If you do disturb the soil, reseed it immediately.
7. Be responsible for controlling noxious weeds on your own property.

For more information, contact the Range Section of your local Ministry of Forests Office.

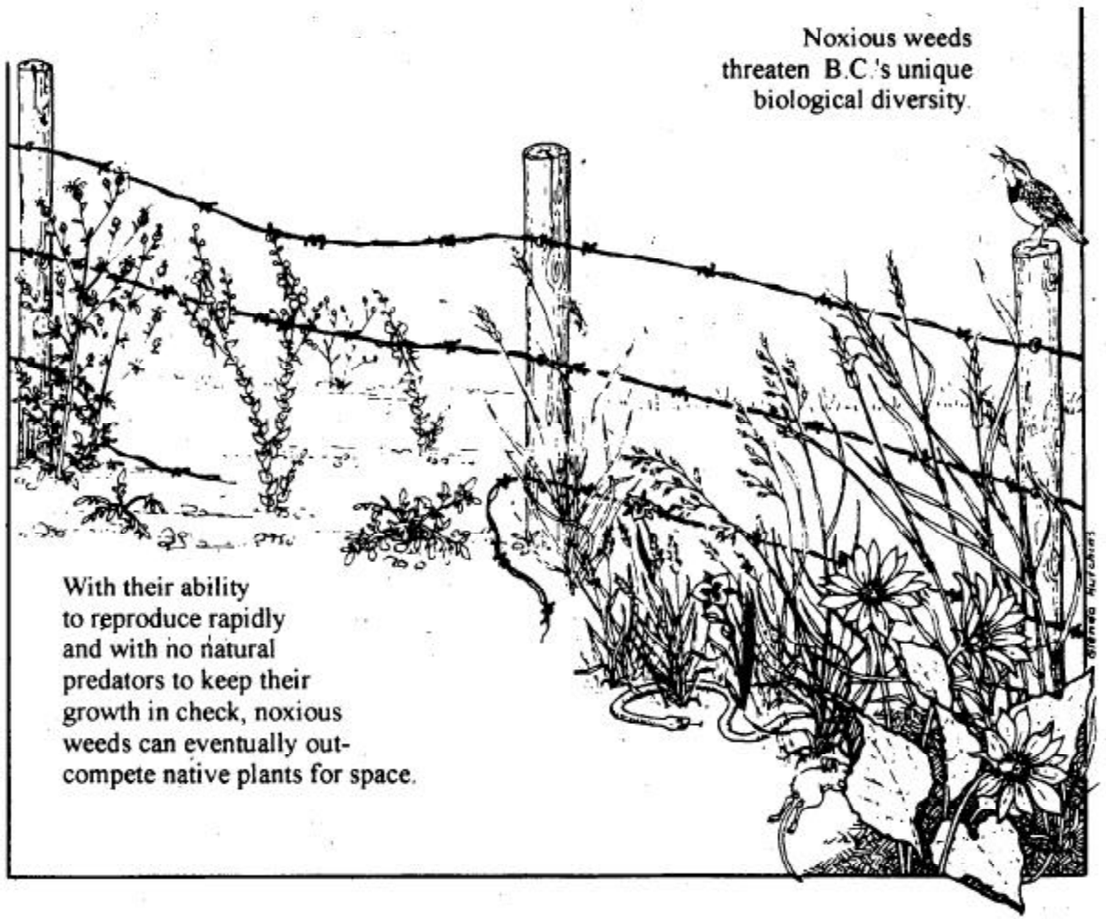
RANGE

NOXIOUS WEEDS

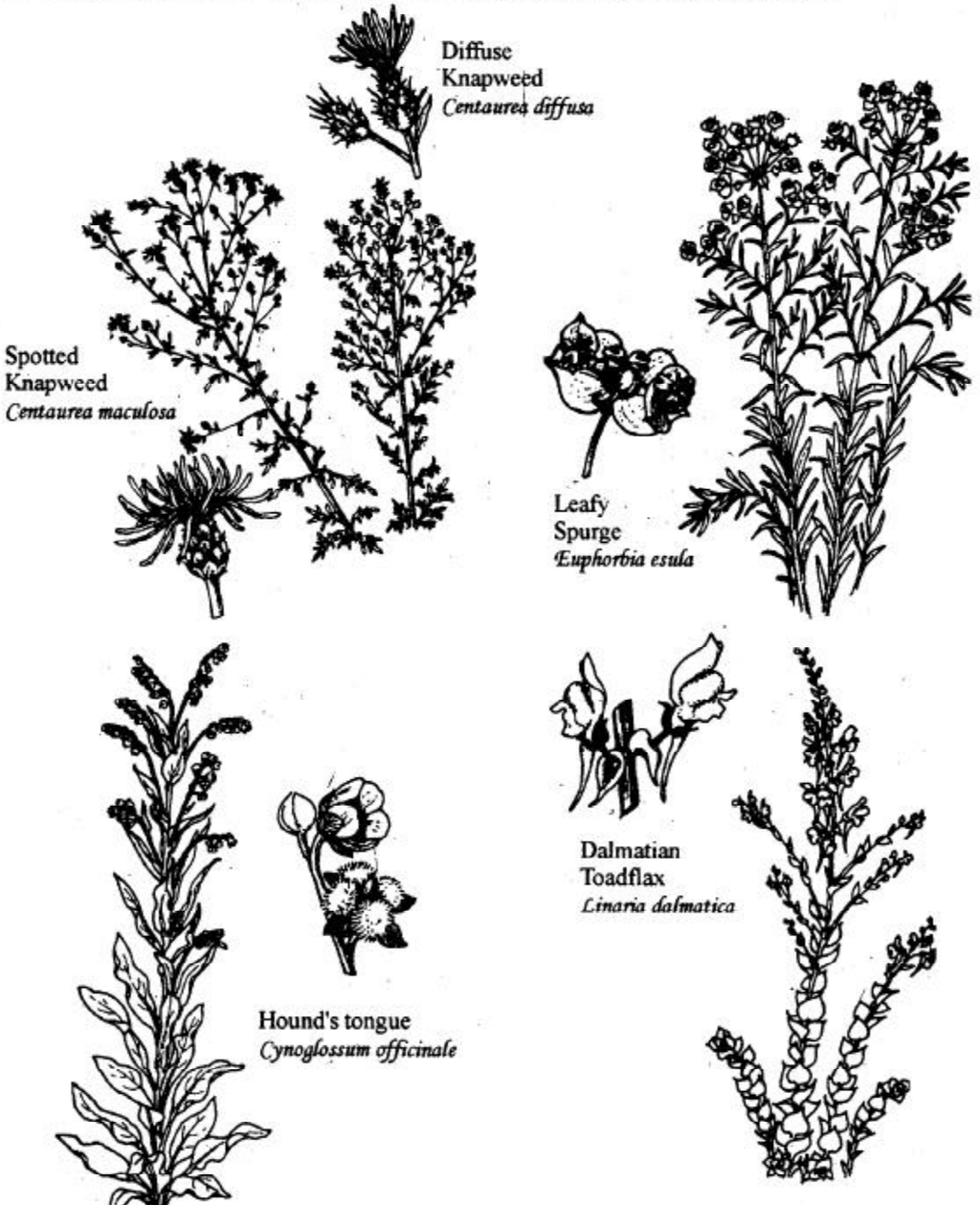
beautiful, but deadly

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of

Although a field of colourful flowers waving in the breeze may look beautiful, appearances can be deceiving.... these "flowers" may be unwanted, non-native weeds, such as Toadflax or Knapweed. Most of these weeds were introduced from Eurasia either accidentally in cereal grains, or intentionally as ornamental plants. Because these plants have no natural enemies in North America, they have easily spread and now infest valuable wildlife habitat, rangeland and recreational areas in British Columbia.



The most effective way to control weeds is to prevent their establishment. By reporting and removing the following "invaders", their numbers can be significantly reduced.



CONTROLLING THE WEED PROBLEM

The Ministry of Forests has established an *integrated pest management program* to combat problem weeds. The location and size of weed infestations and other environmental information determines which control methods will be used. Although noxious weeds will never be completely eliminated, the goal is to achieve a healthy, natural balance in which weeds will play only a minor part in the ecosystem.

Biological Control

- involves the use of carefully screened, natural plant pests such as insects, to attack problem weeds;
- is a very slow process that can take numerous years before impacts on weeds are visible;
- is environmentally sensitive,and;
- is a self-regulating control method.

Mechanical Control

- involves the mechanical destruction of weeds through handpulling, mowing, tilling, and digging;
- is effective immediately, but short-lived;
- is environmentally sensitive, and;
- is not economic over large weed-infested areas.

Chemical Control

- involves the use of herbicides at specific locations;
- is effective immediately;
- can remain effective for several years, and;
- ecological and economical considerations limit the areas that can be treated.